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REVIEW.

More than two years ago we received, by the courtesy of Professor J: H: Comstock, a copy of his "(A fragment of a) Guide to practical work in elementary entomology" [Rec., 3508]. We were then disposed to write a critical review of the pamphlet, as regards its orismology, but did not publish it. We are now favored with a contribution from one of Mr. Comstock's pupils, in which this orismology is used. We notice, however, two deviations, in this article, from the terms recommended by Mr. Comstock, and thereby the most serious objections to the nomenclature are obviated. These deviations are in the use of the adverbial forms cephalad and caudad with also an adjectival significance. It seemed to us too absurd for toleration to be required by this orismology to "speak of the caudal part of the head or of the cephalic portion of the tail." If however, we speak of the caudad part of the head and the cephalad portion of the tail, we only introduce new words into the language, which is always permissible and cannot cause confusion. Otherwise the introduction of the proposed terms cannot cause harm, and may do good; indeed, if it is found that in any way terms may be introduced which are more "brief, simple, exact, significant," and more

widely applicable than former terms, good is certainly accomplished. It is proper to say that these terms are adopted by Mr. Comstock from a more comprehensive series proposed by Professors Wilder and Gage, and are not original with him. We have looked through the article by Mr. Krauss, to which we have referred, with the idea of determining the necessity for the new nomenclature. We do not find any passage where terms formerly in use, such as above, below, before, behind, would not be as intelligible as the new terms; but, on the other hand, they would not be more intelligible except that they are more familiar, a difference which disappears with use. We do not imagine that any entomologist would lay an insect on its back or stand it on its head to describe it, using corresponding terms descriptive of position, and Mr. Comstock admits that with any system of nomenclature we must first agree what to consider the normal position of the parts of an insect: that being admitted, the choice is mainly a verbal one. The use of the term meson, however, and its derivatives, we find to be a valuable addition to entomological orismology.

The second chapter of the work is taken up with a description of *Caloptenus femurrubrum*, unfortunately called a "grasshopper," and described as having a "caudal leg" and "cephalic wings." The idea of using a locust for this illustrative chapter is borrowed from Dr. W. K. Brooks. The description is excellent; we commend it to teachers and students, but think older forms of expression could be substituted with advantage in a sentence like the following, whose peculiar terms are based upon the very natural assumption that the locust is standing on his legs and holding his head in the only position it can then assume without being pulled off:—

"Upon each side joining the pseudo-ventral [lower] end of the suture just described and the pseudo-ventral [lower] end of the one which extends pseudo-ventrad [downwards] from the compound eye is a well marked suture, which forms the pseudo-ventral [lower] border of the lateral part of the epicranium."—p. 20.

B: P. M.